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**From:** Yap-deffler, Yazmine [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=000003B1FC74446480B16241E27DE52A-YYAPDEFF]  
**Sent:** 2/9/2018 8:48:26 PM  
**To:** Gross, Bonnie [Gross.bonnie@epa.gov]; Hirsh, Steven [Hirsh.Steven@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Summary of OLEM Consultation - PFAS contamination in Blades, DE

Thanks Bonnie.

Thanks,

Yaz

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**From:** Gross, Bonnie  
**Sent:** Friday, February 09, 2018 2:39 PM  
**To:** Hirsh, Steven <Hirsh.Steven@epa.gov>; Yap-deffler, Yazmine <Yap-Deffler.Yazmine@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Summary of OLEM Consultation - PFAS contamination in Blades, DE

Forwarding a summary of our PFAS consultation with OLEM.

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**From:** Towle, Michael  
**Sent:** Friday, February 09, 2018 2:23 PM  
**To:** Irizarry, Gilberto <[Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov](mailto:Irizarry.Gilberto@epa.gov)>; Fitz-James, Schatzi <[Fitz-James.Schatzi@epa.gov](mailto:Fitz-James.Schatzi@epa.gov)>; Gaines, Linda <[Gaines.Linda@epa.gov](mailto:Gaines.Linda@epa.gov)>

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**Subject:** Summary of OLEM Consultation - PFAS contamination in Blades, DE

## Blades, DE PFOA/PFOS Drinking Water Contamination Summary of Consultation

On February 9, 2018, consultation occurred between EPA Region 3 and EPA OLEM regarding activities requested by the State of Delaware of the EPA Region 3 Removal Program. The State has requested EPA assistance to further characterize (via sampling and analysis) a release of PFAs that has affected the public drinking water supply of Blades, DE. The State has additionally requested EPA assistance in the provision of drinking water to impacted residents.

### Background:

PFAs (both PFOA and PFOS compounds) have been detected in the 3 municipal supply wells serving the Town of Blades, DE. The preliminary results were received by EPA on February 6, 2018 and provided to EPA Removal Program on February 7, 2018. The preliminary results are:

Blades Well: SPW01 – PFOS is 102.0 ng/l, PFOA is 15.5 ng/l.

Blades Well: SPW02 – PFOS is 82.6 ng/l, PFOA is 13.6 ng/l.

Blades Well: SPW03 – PFOS is 178 ng/l, PFOA is 15.1 ng/l.

The extent of PFOA/PFOS contamination (or any other contamination) is not presently fully known. Nearby electroplating operations are suspected as a source of the contamination. EPA has been asked to assist in the further characterization of the PFOA/PFOS release that is affecting the drinking water supply of Blades.

In response to the drinking water contamination, State and Local authorities are now supplying an alternate source of drinking water to Town residents via bottled water and soon (2/10/18) through portable water tanks provided by National Guard. EPA has been asked to assist in this effort and to provide further assistance in providing a better solution (e.g., interim treatment capability) before a final solution can be implemented.

The water supplier in Blades is the Town of Blades. The system presently consists of a greensand filter and chlorination system. The Town (Manager, Mayor, and Council President) has now stated to EPA that they do not have the engineering or financial capability to further treat the water before delivery to Town residents.

### Summary of Consult

1. EPA R3 should obtain the final analytical results and other available analytical data to better inform upcoming decisions.
2. EPA R3 should proceed to offer sampling assistance to help characterize the contamination and potential exposures/threats. Assistance is through the sampling of available wells (e.g., private residential wells and Town wells). Additionally, sampling of finished water prior to delivery is an acceptable sampling point. The sampling of Town wells and finished water is a reasonable activity given the fact that EPA is already involved (through its Site Assessment / Pre-Remedial program) in the sampling of the Town wells. Inclusion of finished water results will better inform the response community about the overall threats.
3. EPA R3 Removal Program should not offer assistance to provide bottled water to the residents of the Town of Blades at this time.
4. Additional consultation is required prior to EPA R3 Removal Program conducting any additional activity such as the provision of drinking water to households with contaminated private wells. After analytical results are collected, standard evaluation of threat should occur following the NCP as well as RML guidance levels (indicated as 400 ppt).

5. Additional consultation is required prior to EPA R3 Removal Program conducting additional activity related to the provision of drinking water via the Town water supply system (e.g., providing temporary treatment systems prior to distribution). After analytical results are collected and after information is collected about the Town system and the capability of the Town or State to provide such treatment, consultation is required.